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Office of Science Information Service

February 14, 1975

Professor A. I. Mikhailov  
Director, All-Union Institute for Scientific  
Technical Information (VINITI)  
Baltiyskaya ul., 14  
125219, Moscow, A-219  
U.S.S.R.

Dear Professor Mikhailov:

Professor Derek Price, Coordinator of the U.S. Research Group on Forecasting, is out of the country; therefore, I am writing to you to inform you of the progress that his group has made in preparing for the October symposium.

Professor Price has arranged to hold the symposium at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. The specific dates are October 20-23. On Friday, October 24, the combined US/ USSR Research Group on Forecasting could meet to determine the plan of work for the next year and the organization of the second symposium which will be held in the U.S.S.R. The annual meeting of the American Society for Information Sciences takes place in Boston, October 25-30.

The following U.S. specialists have agreed tentatively to prepare papers for the Yale symposium in the four problem areas we identified during our meeting in Moscow in September 1974:

(a) Scientific and Technical Literature and Data

Mr. Donald W. King, Center for Quantitative Sciences  
Professor Fritz Machlup, Princeton University

(b) Use and Users of Scientific and Technical Literature

Dr. William Garvey, The Johns Hopkins University  
Dr. Eugene Garfield, Institute for Scientific Information

(c) Theoretical and Methodological Work

Dr. Tefko Saracevic, Case-Western Reserve University  
Prof. Derek J. de Solla Price, Yale University  
Dr. Manfred Kochen, University of Michigan

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(d) Information Systems and Services

Dr. Russell L. Ackoff, University of Pennsylvania  
Dr. Vincent Giuliano, Arthur D. Little, Inc.

The titles of the papers will be made known within a few weeks. Somewhat later, probably by August 1, we shall send you a list of U.S. observers who will participate in this symposium.

Under separate cover we are sending you copies of seven documents which we believe will be useful references for the Soviet specialists. Please note that the first document, listed in Enclosure number 1 to this letter, contains a comprehensive bibliography on Western studies on obsolescence and change in the scientific and technical literature.

Also, the second document on the list (Communication in Science by A. J. Meadow) is the best Western summary, according to Prof. Price, of the state of scientific knowledge on which to base our forecasting technologies. He strongly suggests that you give this book priority consideration for cover-to-cover translation and publication in Russian.

With reference to the time table (pages 11-12 of Enclosure number 2) for symposium preparation, I suggest that because of the slippage we have had, we delay the exchange of progress reports, methodologies and references between the scientists working in similar areas until such time as we know which U.S. and Soviet authors will address which topics and until they have had sufficient time to develop their themes. Possibly both sides would be prepared for such an exchange by May 1 when the exchange of titles and abstracts of papers is scheduled to occur.

To expedite communications between us, I suggest that you send the list of Soviet specialists who will be preparing papers and copies of any reference materials for the U.S. specialists through the Science Counselor at the American Embassy in Moscow.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and to our continued cooperative effort to improve the transfer of the scientific and technical knowledge between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. I will relay all information to Mr. Price.

Sincerely,

Lee G. Burchinal  
Head

cc: D.J. Price

Enclosures (2)

Documents Transmitted Under Separate Cover

1. Line, Maurice B. and Sandison, A., "'Obsolescence' and Changes In The Use of Literature With Time," Journal of Documentation, Vol. 30, No. 3, September 1974, p. 293-350.
2. A. J. Meadows, Communication in Science, London: Butterworths, 1974, p. 248.
3. American Institute of Biological Sciences, Citation of Russian Literature in 25 Selected U.S. Biological Sciences Journals for the Years 1959, 1960, and 1961, 5 - 62, July 1962.
4. Syracuse University Research Institute, A Study of the Frequency With Which Russian, French and German Scientific Articles are Cited in Selected American Scientific Journals, June 1, 1966.
5. Price, Derek de Solla, "Society's Needs in Scientific and Technical Information," Drexel University's Lecture Series "Society's Technological Needs," February 4, 1974.
6. Anderia, Georges, Information in 1985, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1973.
7. National Science Foundation, The Growth of Scientific and Technical Information - A Challenge; Lecture and Seminar Proceedings of J. Georges Anderia, January 1974.